(b) how exactly the scheme 'ASIDE' work in the States for boosting exports and equity participation in infrastructure projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN) : (a) The Government evolves policies keeping in view its targets in various sectors, including in infrastructure like railways and ports. Some of the projects approved/ implemented with the help of private sector participation are as under:

(i) The rail connectivity to Pipavav and Mundra ports.

(ii) Gandhidham-Palanpur gauge conversion and Hassan - Mangalore gauge conversion projects.

(iii) The development of the third container terminal at the Jawaharlal Nehru port.

(iv) The development of an International container Transshipment Terminal at Cochin port.

(b) Under the Assistance to States for Development of Export Infrastructure and Allied Activities (ASIDE) scheme financial assistance is provided to State Governments for implementing infrastructure projects that are directly linked to exports. The ASIDE scheme encourages participation of the private sector and the State Governments in the projects.

Production of cigarettes and bidis

1008. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that cigarettes and bidis are being produced in various States, illegally and without having proper license;

(b) if so, the details of such illegal producers; and

(c) the steps Government have taken or propose to take to curb the illegal manufacturing of cigarettes and bidis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN) : (a) to (c) Under the provisions of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 license to manufacture of cigarettes is required by factories where for manufacturing

with the aid of power, 50 or more workers, or for manufacturing without aid of the power, 100 or more workers, are working or were working on any day during the preceding 12 months. No case of manufacture of cigarettes in violation of the provisions of the aforesaid Act has come to the notice of the Government. Bidi is not a scheduled industry under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 and, therefore, the provisions relating to licensing under the said Act are not applicable.

Export Credit Guarantee Corporation

1009. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to raise the capital of Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) from Rs. 500 crore to Rs. 800 crore; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN) : (a) and (b) Government have already decided to raise the capital base of Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd. (ECGC) from Rs. 500 crore to Rs. 800 crore over the Tenth Five Year Plan period. Out of Rs. 300 crore, Rs. 100 crore have been approved for release during the current financial year.

Export target

1010. SHRI S. M. LALJAN BASHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have export target of US $ 150 billion for the financial year 2009-10;

(b) if so, the basis of this export target set by Government;

(c) whether Government have made any plans for increasing rice exports during the next five years;

(d) whether any specific plan has been drawn up for agricultural exports; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?